

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00005 062214Z

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 0005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP ASEC RW

SUBJ: TERRORISM

FOR AF/EX BRADFORD

NAIROBI FOR RSO

REF: STATE 249033

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY COMMENT ON REFTEL, WHICH RAISES PROBLEM OF REAL CONCERN AT TIME WHEN RWANDA APPARENTLY STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WITH LIBYA (SEPTTEL). IN EXPECTATION OF NAMING OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR, BELIEVE VIEWS BELOW SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY NEW AMBASSAODR.

2. ASSIGNMENT OF MSG WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY IMPROVE SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THESE AIMS COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED WITH UNIT OF LESS THAN FIVE WATCHSTANDERS PLUS NCOIC AND THAT THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR REQUESTING SMALLER MSG. FIRST IS EFFICIENT USE OF MANPOWER. THERE ARE AT PRESENT FIVE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES (PLUS 12 DEPENDENTS) HERE. A SIXTH (NEW SECRETARY) EXPECTED ARRIVE JANUARY 6 AND NEW AMBASSADOR WOULD MAKE SEVEN AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. WE WONDER WHETHER SIX MARINES NEEDED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KIGALI 00005 062214Z

PROTECT OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THIS SIZE. IN

ADDITION, THERE IS PROBLEM OF IMAGE IN VERY SMALL CITY WHERE THIS MANY MARINES WOULD BE HIGHLY VISIBLE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ISRAELIS. WHO BEFORE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD DIPLOMATIC MISSION ONLY SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN OUR PRESENT STAFF, HAD ONE FULL TIME PLAINCLOTHES SECURITY GUARD AND HIS PRESENCE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL COMMENT.

3. RWANDA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS UGANDA IS FURTHER FACTOR. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GENERAL AMIN ACCUSED AMEMBASSY KAMPALA MSG OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND THERE IS SOME RISK THAT HE WOULD CHOOSE TO MAKE SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MARINES STATIONED IN KIGALI, PARTICULARLY IF MSG HIGHLY VISIBLE. WE ALSO RECALL AMIN RECENTLY MADE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PLANS FOR US-UK-ISRAELI PARATROOPER ATTACK AGAINST UGANDA. IN LATE 1972, AMIN ACCUSED ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE OF PLANNING SUBVERSION AGAINST UGANDA AND THIS CAUSED BRIEF CRISIS BETWEEN RWANDA AND UGANDA WHICH INCLUDED TEMPORARY CLOSING OF BORDER. WHILE US NEED NOT BE BOTHERED BY AMIN'S RANTINGS, POSSIBILITY OF UGANDAN PRESIDENT'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US RE MSG PRESENCE IN KIGALI COULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR RWANDA, WHICH VITALLY DEPENDENT ON UGANDA FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD. UGANDAN-RWANDAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON US RELATIONS WITH GOR.

4. IT APPEARS TO US THAT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SECURITY WITH ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES COULD BE ACHIEVED BY TWO MAN MARINE CONTINGENT. REASONS FOR MSG PRESENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO RWANDANS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE UGANDAN REACTIONS. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH GOR, IT MIGHT BE JUDGED PREFERABLE NOT TO PUBLICLY IDENTIFY MSG AS MILITARY PERSONNEL.

5. WE WONDER THEREFORE WHETHER TWO-MAN MSG COULD BE SUPERVISED FROM NAIROBI AND/OR SHARED WITH BUJUMBURA. TOURS IN KIGALI MIGHT BE WORKED OUT ON TDY BASIS OF A FEW MONTHS AT A TIME WHICH COULD HELP REDUCE MORAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00005 062214Z

PROBLEMS FOR MARINES IN THIS ISOLATED TOWN. IN ADDITION TO FACTORS NAMED ABOVE, TWO-MAN CONTINGENT WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT BUDGET SAVINGS AS WE COULD HOUSE TWO MARINES IN EMBASSY-OWNED TRANSIT APARTMENT. COST FOR SIX MONTHS, INCLUDING OFFICE EQUIPMENT, ADMIN SUPPLIES, UTILITIES ESTIMATED AT \$4700.

6. SIX-MAN MSG FOR REMAINDER FY 74 WOULD COST
ESTIMATED \$31,600 (INCLUDING ONE SET OF FURNITURE,
APPLIANCES, UTILITIES, RENT AND MIS EXPENSES).

BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FIGURE AND ONE CITED FOR
TWO-MAN CONTINGENT DUE TO FACT THAT TWO-MAN CONTINGENT
COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN PRESENT EMBASSY HOUSING. IF
LARGER MSG CAME, WE WOULD PLAN TO TURN OVER ENTIRE
EMBASSY STAFF APARTMENT BLOC TO MARINES AND SEEK TO
RENT NEW HOUSING FOR SECRETARIES. THIS WOULD BE
DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE IN HOUSING-SHORT KIGALI.
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